43. Ar-Raqib
(The Watchful)

"When you truly understand that Allah is watchful over you, you will be watchful over your own heart."

- Sahl al-Tustari (818-896 CE)
Source: "Tafsir al-Tustari"
(Tustari's Commentary on the Quran)

Anyone who desires that his family and wealth be protected against all calamities should repeat this Name of Allah 7 times and blow on them. He can also continue repeating this Name for his own safety - Al Hisnul Hasin

BI'ISMIHI TA'AALA

Asmaa ul Husna

—

The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ

Ml.Moosa Kajee

AL-RAQEEB ﷻ (THE CARETAKER/ OVERSEER ﷻ)

Ar-Raqeeb ﷻ is that Being who is fully aware of the thoughts which the hearts conceal, who oversees every action of every being. He protects all creation and runs their system in the best and most perfect manner. Allaah ﷻ states in the Quraan,

وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ رَّقِيبًا

And Allaah ﷻ oversees everything. (Ahzaab)

چوریاں آنکھوں کی اورسینوں کے راز سب کو تو ہی جانتا اے بے نیاز

The surreptitious glances of the eye and the secrets of the heart-You are fully aware of all of it, O Independent One.

This means that Allaah ﷻ knows all our actions. Any action, be it good or bad is not out of the bounds of His knowledge. He ﷻ will grant complete recompense for actions. Fearing the Pure Being, the Creator and Owner, the Being who has knowledge of all actions, who knows all hidden and outward deeds – is the demand of one's Imaan.

Ar-Raqeeb is the overseer of all systems. A major reason for the balance of the universe is that the celestial bodies move in their orbits. Regarding this, not much knowledge was available, until very recently. However the Qur'aan has with great emphasis mentioned these orbits:

وَ هُوَ الَّذِی خَلَقَ الَّیۡلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمۡسَ وَالۡقَمَرَ ؕ كُلٌّ فِی فَلَكٍ یَّسۡبَحُوۡنَ

And it is He who has created the night and day, sun and moon. All swim in their orbits. (Ambiyaa)

The stars, planets, and satellites revolve around their orbits within the systems to which they are connected. This huge universe moves as well, following a very delicate and orderly system similar to the gears of a machine.

From this, one can understand that if these celestial bodies move slightly away from its orbit, then the entire system of the universe will go hay-wire. By way of example, if the earth moves away from its orbit by only 3 millimetres, the result would be the following:

“The revolving earth circumambulates around the sun in such a way, that after every 18 miles, it moves away 2.8mm from its original place. The orbit around which the earth revolves never changes. A deflection of only 3 millimetres will create a disastrous consequence. Instead of 2.8 millimetres, if the deflection in only 2.5 millimetres, then the orbit will become too big and everything will become frozen. If the deflection is 3.1 millimetres, then we will all burn to ashes due to the intense heat.”

Only Ar-Raqeeb ﷻ can keep in place this beautiful system of the universe with such precision, since He ﷻis fully aware of every atom in the universe, and it is under His observation that this whole system is running.

Imam Shaafiee ﷺ has so beautifully stated,

إِذَا مَا خَلَوْتَ الدَّهْرَ يَوْمًا فَلاَ تَقُلْ خَلَوْتُ وَلٰكِنْ قُلْ عَلَيَّ رَقِيْبُ

If you are ever in solitude, do not say, “I am alone,” but say, “Some-one is watching over me.”

وَلاَ تَحْسَبَنَّ اللّٰهَ يَغْفَلُ سَاعَةً وَلاَ أَنْ مَا يَخْفٰى عَلَيْهِ يَغِيْبُ

Never think that Allaah ﷻ is negligent for even a second, and that whatever you do secretly is hidden from Him.

غَفَلْنَا لَعَمْرِ اللّٰهِ حَتّٰى تَرَاكَمَتْ عَلَيْنَا ذُنُوْبٌ بَعْدَهُنَّ ذُنُوْبُ

By Allaah! We were unmindful until eventually sins upon sins engulfed us.

فَيَالَيْتَ أَنَّ اللّٰهَ يَغْفِرُ مَا مَضٰى وَ يَأْذَنُ فِيْ تَوْبَاتِنَا فَنَتُوْبُ

O, if only Allaah ﷻ will forgive our past sins, and grant us the ability to turn to Him so that we may repent!

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ الْيَوْمَ أَسْرَعُ ذَاهِبٍ وَ أَنَّ غَدًا لِلنَّاظِرِيْنَ قَرِيْبٌ

Do you not know that today is passing by extremely swiftly, and that tomorrow is very close for those who are looking on?